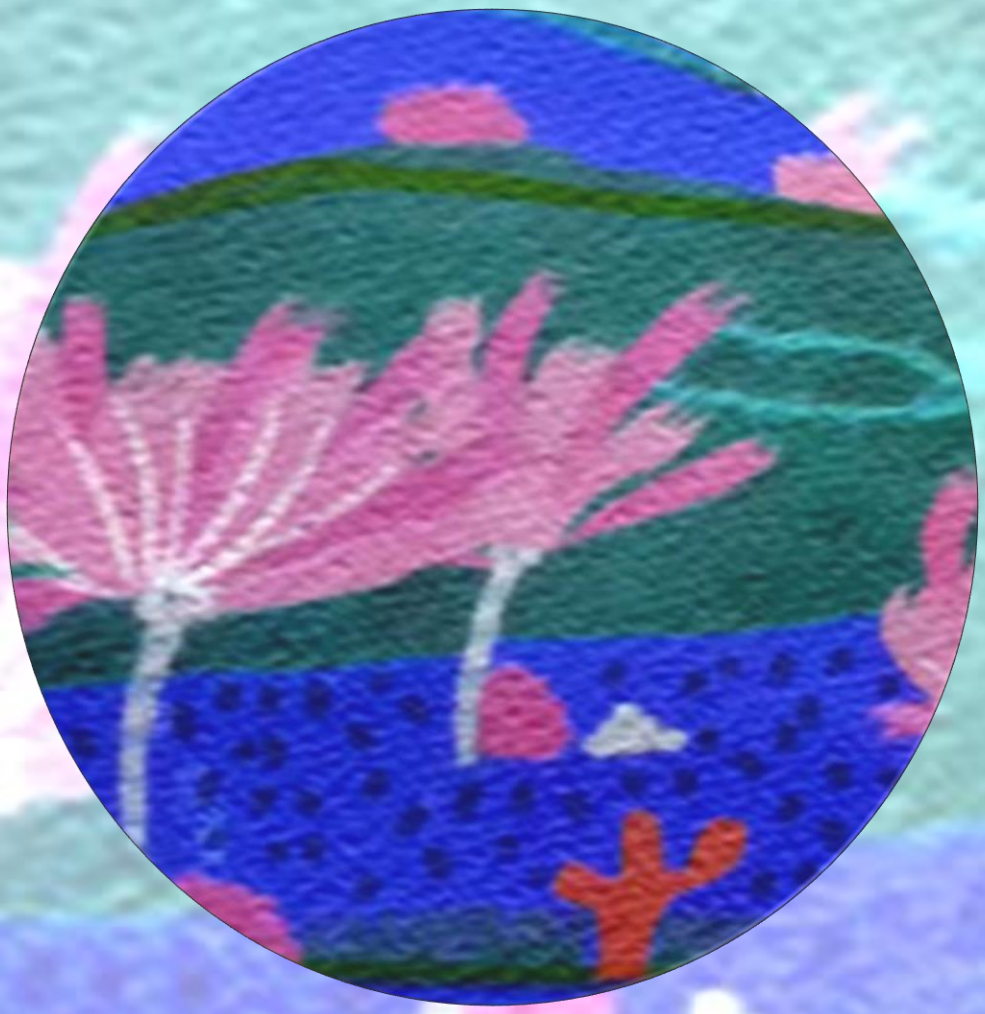
2 ESDRAS 8



1611 KING JAMES VERSION

Arranged By M. Love

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2 ESDRAS 8

8:1 And he answered me, saying,
The most High hath made this world for many, but the world to come for few.

8:2 I will tell thee a similitude, Esdras;
As when thou askest the earth, it shall say unto thee, that it giveth much mould whereof earthen vessels are made,

but little dust
that gold
cometh of:
even so
is the course
of this
present world.
8:3 There be
many created,
but few
shall be saved.

8:4 So answered I and said, Swallow then down, O my soul, understanding, and devour wisdom.
8:5 For thou hast agreed to give ear, and art

willing to
prophesy:
for thou hast
no longer space
than only to live.
8:6 O Lord, if
thou suffer not
thy servant, that
we may pray
before thee, and
thou give us

seed unto our heart, and culture to our understanding, that there may come fruit of it; how shall each man live that is corrupt, who beareth the place of a man?

8:7 For thou art alone, and we all one workmanship of thine hands, like as thou hast said.

8:8 For when the body is

fashioned now in the mother's womb, and thou givest it members, thy creature is preserved in fire and water, and nine months doth thy workmanship

endure thy creature which is created in her.
8:9 But that which keepeth and is kept shall both be preserved: and when the time cometh, the womb preserved

delivereth up the things that grew in it.

8:10 For thou hast commanded out of the parts of the body, that is to say, out of the breasts, milk to be given, which

is the fruit of the breasts,
8:11 That the thing which is fashioned may be nourished for a time, till thou disposest it to thy mercy.
8:12 Thou broughtest it

up with thy righteousness, and nurturedst it in thy law, and reformedst it with thy judgment.

8:13 And thou shalt mortify it as thy creature, and quicken it as

thy work.

8:14 If therefore thou shalt destroy him which with so great labour was fashioned, it is an easy thing to be ordained by thy

commandment, that the thing which was made might be preserved.

8:15 Now therefore, Lord, I will speak; touching man in general, thou knowest best;

but touching
thy people, for
whose sake
I am sorry;
8:16 And for
thine
inheritance,
for whose
cause I mourn;
and for Israel, for
whom I am

heavy; and
for Jacob, for
whose sake I
am troubled;
8:17 Therefore
will I begin to
pray before
thee for myself
and for them:
for I see
the falls of us

that dwell
in the land.
8:18 But I have
heard the
swiftness of
the judge which
is to come.
8:19 Therefore
hear my voice,
and understand
my words, and

I shall speak before thee. This is the beginning of the words of Esdras, before he was taken up: and I said,

8:20 O Lord, thou that dwellest in everlastingness which beholdest

from above
things in the
heaven and
in the air;
8:21 Whose
throne is
inestimable;
whose glory
may not be
comprehended;
before whom

the hosts of angels stand with trembling, 8:22 Whose service is conversant in wind and fire; whose word is true, and sayings constant; whose

commandment
is strong, and
ordinance
fearful;
8:23 Whose look
drieth up the
depths, and
indignation
maketh the
mountains to
melt away;

which the truth witnesseth:
8:24 O hear the prayer of thy servant, and give ear to the petition of thy creature.
8:25 For while I live I will speak, and so long as

I have understanding I will answer.

8:26 O look not upon the sins of thy people; but on them which serve thee in truth.

8:27 Regard not the wicked

inventions of the heathen, but the desire of those that keep thy testimonies in afflictions.

8:28 Think not upon those that have walked feignedly before thee: but

remember them, which according to thy will have known thy fear.
8:29 Let it not be thy will to destroy them which have lived like beasts; but to look upon them that have

clearly taught
thy law.
8:30 Take thou
no indignation at
them which are
deemed worse
than beasts; but
love them that
always put their
trust in thy
righteousness

and glory.
8:31 For we and our fathers do languish of such diseases: but because of us sinners thou shalt be called merciful.
8:32 For if thou hast a desire to

have mercy upon us, thou shalt be called merciful, to us namely, that have no works of righteousness.
8:33 For the just, which have many good works laid up

with thee, shall out of their own deeds receive reward.

8:34 For what is man, that thou shouldest take displeasure at him? or what is a corruptible generation, that

thou shouldest be so bitter toward it?

8:35 For in truth them is no man among them that be born, but he hath dealt wickedly; and among the faithful there is

none which hath not done amiss.
8:36 For in this, O Lord, thy righteousness and thy goodness shall be declared, if thou be merciful unto them which have not the

confidence of good works.
8:37 Then answered he me, and said, Some things hast thou spoken aright, and according unto thy words it shall be.

8:38 For indeed I will not think on the disposition of them which have sinned before death, before judgment, before destruction:
8:39 But I will rejoice over the

disposition of the righteous, and I will remember also their pilgrimage, and the salvation, and the reward, that they shall have.
8:40 Like as I have spoken

now, so shall it come to pass.
8:41 For as the husbandman soweth much seed upon the ground, and planteth many trees, and yet the thing that is sown good in his

season cometh not up, neither doth all that is planted take root: even so is it of them that are sown in the world; they shall not all be saved.
8:42 I answered then and said, If

I have found grace, let me speak.

8:43 Like as the husbandman's seed perisheth, if it come not up, and receive not thy rain in due season; or if there come too

much rain, and corrupt it:
8:44 Even so perisheth man also, which is formed with thy hands, and is called thine own image, because thou art like unto him, for whose

sake thou hast made all things, and likened him unto the husbandman's seed.

8:45 Be not wroth with us but spare thy people, and have mercy upon

thine own inheritance: for thou art merciful unto thy creature.

8:46 Then answered he me, and said, Things present are for the

present, and things to cometh for such as be to come.
8:47 For thou comest far short that thou shouldest be able to love my creature more than I: but I have

ofttimes drawn nigh unto thee, and unto it, but never to the unrighteous.

8:48 In this also thou art marvellous before the most High:

8:49 In that thou hast humbled thyself, as it becometh thee, and hast not judged thyself worthy to be much glorified among the righteous.
8:50 For many

great miseries shall be done to them that in the latter time shall dwell in the world, because they have walked in great pride.

8:51 But understand thou

for thyself, and seek out the glory for such as be like thee.

8:52 For unto you is paradise opened, the tree of life is planted, the time to come is prepared, plenteousness

is made ready,
a city is builded,
and rest is
allowed, yea,
perfect
goodness and
wisdom.
8:53 The root of
evil is sealed up
from you,
weakness and

the moth is hid from you, and corruption is fled into hell to be forgotten:

8:54 Sorrows are passed, and in the end is shewed the treasure of immortality.

8:55 And therefore ask thou no more questions concerning the multitude of them that perish.
8:56 For when they had taken liberty, they despised the

most High,
thought scorn
of his law
and forsook
his ways.
8:57 Moreover
they have
trodden down
his righteous,
8:58 And said in
their heart, that

there is no God; yea, and that knowing they must die.
8:59 For as the things aforesaid shalt receive you, so thirst and pain are prepared for them: for it was

not his will that men should come to nought:
8:60 But they which be created have defiled the name of him that made them, and were unthankful unto him which prepared life

for them.
8:61 And
therefore is my
judgment now
at hand.
8:62 These
things
have I not
shewed unto all
men, but unto
thee, and a few

like thee.
Then
answered I
and said,
8:63 Behold,
O Lord, now
hast thou
shewed me
the multitude
of the
wonders,

which thou
wilt begin
to do
in the
last times:
but at what
time,
thou hast not
shewed me.